

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Claims 1-38 (cancelled).

39. (New) A method of treating obstructive sleep apnea comprising:

implanting a passive probe into target tissue within such a patient, wherein the target tissue corresponds to a location in such a patient where applying an electrical stimulation to such a patient serves to stabilize an upper airway of such a patient without assistance of an implanted device that mechanically suspends tissues associated with the upper airway;

providing a magnetic field to the passive probe, wherein the passive probe alters a characteristic of the magnetic field to enhance a stimulation of the target tissue of such a patient by the magnetic field, and

controlling delivery of the magnetic field to the passive via an external controller located outside such a patient.

40. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the target tissue includes 1) muscle tissue associated with an upper airway of such a patient or 2) nerves associated with the muscle tissue.

41. (New) The method according to claim 39, further comprising a sensor adapted to be located relative to such a patient so as to detect an apneic event of such a patient, and wherein the controlling step includes providing the magnetic field based on detection of the apneic event.

42. (New) The method according to claim 39, further comprising a sensor adapted to be located relative to such a patient so as to detect a respiratory pattern of such a patient, and wherein said controlling step includes providing said energizing signal based on detection an output of said sensor.

43. (New) The method according to claim 39, wherein the implanting step includes implanting at least two passive probes in such a patient, and wherein controlling delivery of the magnetic field includes controlling which of the at least two passive probes on which the magnetic field is directed.

44. (New) A system for treating obstructive sleep apnea comprising:
a first passive probe adapted to be positioned within target tissue of a patient, wherein the target tissue corresponds to a location in such a patient where applying an electrical stimulation to such a patient serves to stabilize an upper airway of such a patient without assistance of an implanted device that mechanically suspends of tissues associated with the upper airway; and

an external controller adapted to produce a magnetic field for delivery to the first passive probe, and where the passive probe is configured and arranged to alter a characteristic of the magnetic field to enhance a stimulation of the target tissue by the magnetic field.

45. (New) The system according to claim 44, wherein said target tissue includes 1) muscle tissue associated with an upper airway of such a patient or 2) nerves associated with the muscle tissue.

46. (New) The system according to claim 44, further comprising a sensor adapted to be located relative to such a patient so as to detect an apneic event of such a patient,

and wherein the controller provides the magnetic field to the first passive probe based on detection of the apneic event.

47. (New) The system according to claim 44, further comprising a sensor adapted to be located relative to such a patient so as to detect a respiratory pattern of such a patient, and wherein the controller provides the magnetic field to the first passive probe based on an output of the sensor.

48. (New) The system according to claim 44, further comprising a second passive probe adapted to be positioned within target tissue of a patient, wherein the target tissue corresponds to a location in such a patient where applying an electrical stimulation to such a patient serves to stabilize an upper airway of such a patient, and wherein the controller controls delivery of the magnetic field to the first passive probe and the second passive probe.